



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

New York Documentary Filmmaker to Share Her Story of Institutionalization at Age 17

RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) to Co-Host Event that Provides an Inside Look at Public Mental Healthcare in America

Cranston, RI , September, 2012 – Emmy- nominated Director and Producer, Lucy Winer, was committed to the female violent ward of the Kings Park State Hospital in New York at the age of 17. Determined to face her past, she made a documentary about the now-abandoned institution, and travels the country showing her film and speaking at hospitals, universities, mental health associations and many other organizations including the American Psychiatric Association and the National Council for Behavioral Healthcare.

From 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, Ms. Winer will show her most recent film: “Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution”, and speak to an audience that includes mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities providers, mental health court judges, advocates for the homeless and employees of community hospital psychiatric units. The event will take place at the Cranston High School West Auditorium, 80 Metropolitan Avenue in Cranston and is hosted by the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals in conjunction with the RI Council of Community Mental Health Organizations, the Community Provider Network of RI and NAMI Rhode Island.

“It is important, for those of us who serve these populations, to be reminded of what the institutionalization of individuals with mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities meant in the past and the continuing issues that such individuals face in our communities,” says Craig Stenning, Director of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals. “We are pleased to co-host this event and to provide the opportunity to view Lucy Winer’s extremely moving film.”

Prior to her presentations, Lucy will visit several of the closed institutions in Rhode Island with Director Stenning. To view the movie trailer, go to: <http://kingsparkmovie.com/>.

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About the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

BHDDH is committed to assuring access to quality services and supports for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues and chronic, long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. In addition to planning for the development of new services and prevention activities, the department's mission includes addressing the stigma attached to these disabilities.

About Lucy Winer

Emmy-nominated Director and Producer, Lucy Winer, has been committed to issues of social concern throughout her 30 year career. Winer's work has been distributed theatrically in this country and overseas, and broadcast nationally on PBS and cable, receiving glowing reviews in the New York Times, the L.A. Times, the Village Voice, the Hollywood Reporter; and Variety. Her films have been featured at numerous festivals including Sundance, Berlin, Edinburgh, London and Turin, and screened at the American Film Institute Theaters in L.A. and D.C., the Walker Art Institute, the Museum of Modern Art and the New Museum. Her awards include "Outstanding Film of the Year" from the London Film Festival, a Golden Plaque from the Chicago International Film Festival, a CINE Golden Eagle and an Emmy nomination for "Outstanding Picture."

Winer's most recent film, Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution, created over 11 years with producing partner, Karen Eaton, opened last fall to sold-out festival houses and critical praise. Just this month, Ms. Winer has been awarded the 2012 PUBLIC EDUCATION/MEDIA AWARD by the New York State Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS).

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